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Douglas L. Wheeler's commentary on "Four ways to improve America's foreign intelligence" contains a number of valuable suggestions, including how money should be spent on foreign intelligence analysis.

The whole problem of government support for the study of critical foreign areas has only recently received renewed attention by the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies in the United States and the "National Target project" charged to estimate present available specialists on various foreign areas. A dependable supply of well trained, younger area specialists having a thorough language knowledge depends largely on government and university job opportunities. But this demands some long-term commitments and planning from the executive branch, Congress and private organizations, something which this country has been hesitant to do in peace time. Perhaps the present serious world situation will convince our leaders to initiate new arrangements in support of our national interests.

Concerning Professor Wheeler's suggestion that an area study institute or a similar structure be established, it can only be said that in part this was the basic thrust when area and international study centers were established after World War II, at various American universities. The high quality and applicability of the work of the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) during World War II, convinced many of the need for an interdisciplinary organization at universities for training

area specialists, especially after the R&D branch of OSS was almost dismembered after the war. Unfortunately, many of these area centers were never properly funded, more often than not specialists were not trained as area specialists, and those who were trained did not find appropriate jobs, especially during the last years.

Looking at the experience and developments since World War II and the urgent need for studies in support of the national strategic needs of the United States in the foreign field, to my mind it is imperative that a centralized research organization, especially one stressing long-term studies of social, economic, and political impact, be established by the United States government on the model of the R&D branch of World War II OSS. Let me stress, such a research organization should not be responsible for immediate intelligence but rather it must concentrate on long-term, in-depth studies of the type OSS R&D produced with such success and utility during World War II.

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